

PRESS RELEASE

The Cleveland Museum of Art

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MAJOR ART EXHIBITION TO EXAMINE FRENCH REALISM WILL BE ON VIEW IN U.S.
AND EUROPE

A rising interest in, yet continued widespread ignorance of, an historically significant art movement were important factors in The Cleveland Museum of Art's decision to mount the major exhibition The Realist Tradition: French Painting and Drawing, 1830-1900. Over 250 works by 70 artists will be on view in Cleveland from November 12, 1980 through January 18, 1981. The exhibition will then travel to the Brooklyn Museum of Art (March 7-May 10, 1981), the St. Louis Art Museum (July 23-September 20, 1981), and the Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow, Scotland (November 5, 1981-January 4, 1982).

Dr. Gabriel P. Weisberg, curator of Art History and Education at The Cleveland Museum of Art, has spent six years organizing an exhibition which should do much to rescue the reputations of a number of long neglected artists. In many instances Dr. Weisberg has been as much sleuth as scholar, searching the provincial museums of France and public as well as private collections throughout Europe and America for artists and paintings that had been all but forgotten in this century's embrace of impressionism and the modern movement.

Of all the artistic traditions of nineteenth-century France, Realism remains the least studied and cataloged. While there has been a recent revival of interest in the work of Gustave Courbet and Jean-François Millet, little is known of the other realists in Courbet's circle and of those who continued the tradition after 1870. At the time they were well known; their works were purchased by museums and private collectors. Those acquisitions have, however, come to languish in attics and basements, the victims of official neglect and changing taste.

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The Realist Tradition examines, within the context of nineteenth-century France, artists and the social themes they depicted. The way artists saw themselves and their times is joined with history, sociology, politics, and literature to recreate the panorama of a France that was the artistic and intellectual center of the Western world. The seven decades spanned by the exhibition are broken into two divisions: Realism, which explores the origins of the movement from 1830 to 1870, and Naturalism, which examines the continuation of the tradition after the Franco-Prussian War as it shifted toward Naturalism.

Organized into the four official categories that controlled entry to the Salon (genre, still life, portrait, and landscape), the exhibition will bring together the work of neglected masters such as François Bonvin, Jules Bastien-Lepage, and Léon Lhermitte. Artists represented in the exhibition include:

Alexandre Antigna	1817-1878
Pierre Edouard Frère	1819-1886
Octave Tassaert	1800-1874
François Bonvin	1817-1887
Johann Jongkind	1819-1891
Théodule Ribot	1823-1891
Germain Ribot	1845-1893
Honoré Daumier	1808-1879
J. J. Monanteuil	1785-1860
Adolphe Félix Cals	1810-1880
Jean-François Millet	1814-1875
Jean Gigoux	1806-1894
Amand Gautier	1825-1894
François Bonhommé	1830-1870
Adolphe Leleux	1812-1891
Armand Leleux	1818/20-1885
Léon Lhermitte	1844-1925
Louis Cabat	1812-1893
Jules Breton	1827-1906
Rosa Bonheur	1822-1899
Gustave Courbet	1819-1877
Constant Troyon	1810-1865
Gustave Brion	1824-1877
Auguste Herlin	1815-1900
Camille Flers	1802-1868
Philippe Auguste Jeanron	1808-1877
Léon Bonvin	1834-1866
J. J. Henner	1829-1905
Eugène Lepoittevin	1806-1870
Auguste Feyen-Perrin	1829-1888
Dominique Rozier	1840-1901
Adolphe Hervier	1818-1879
Henri Fantin-Latour	1836-1904

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Edgar Degas	1834-1917
Isidore Pils	1813-1875
Alphonse Legros	1837-1911
Antoine Vollon	1833-1900
Alexis Vollon	1865-1945
Marie François Firmin-Girard	1838-1921
Ernest Meissonier	1815-1891
Eugène Boudin	1824-1898
Philippe Rousseau	1816-1887
Camille Pissarro	1830-1903
Jean Antoine Bail	1830-1919
Joseph Bail	1862-1921
Léon Bonnat	1833-1922
Marcellin Desboutin	1823-1902
Jean-François Raffaëlli	1850-1924
Gustave Caillebotte	1848-1894
Jules Bastien-Lepage	1848-1884
Jean Béraud	1849-1935
Norbert Goeneutte	1854-1894
Eugène Carrière	1849-1906
Charles Maurin	1856-1914
Ulysse Butin	1838-1883
Guillaume Fouace	1837-1895
Victor Gilbert	1847-1935
Henri Gervex	1852-1929
Jules Adler	1865-1952
Jean Charles Cazin	1841-1901
Julien Dupré	1851-1910
Paul Sérusier	1864-1927
Emile Bastien-Lepage	1854-1936
Denis Bergeret	1846-1910
E. Carolus-Duran	1838-1917
Gustave Colin	1828-1910
Alfred Casile	1848-1909
Pascal Dagnan-Bouveret	1852-1929
Albert Lebourg	1849-1928

Paintings and drawings are being lent by public and private collections in Europe and North America. Some of the major works and their lenders are:

Alphonse Legros, Ex Voto (Musée de Dijon)
 Camille Pissarro, Still Life (The Toledo Museum of Art, USA)
 Henri Fantin-Latour, The Two Sisters (St. Louis Art Museum, USA)
 Edouard Manet, The Reader (St. Louis Art Museum, USA)
 Alexandre Antigna, L'Incendie (Musée d'Orléans)
 Isidore Pils, Death of a Sister of Charity (Musée des Augustins, Toulouse)
 François Bonvin, The Cabaret Flamand (The Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, USA)
 Jules Breton, Fire in a Haystack (Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, USA)
 Jean-François Millet, Harvesters Resting (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA)
 Théodule Ribot, The Good Samaritan (Musée de Pau)
 Octave Tassaert, The Artist's Studio (Musée du Louvre)
 Léon Lhermitte, The Quartet, charcoal drawing (Cabinet des dessins, Louvre)
 Jean Charles Cazin, The Shipyard (Cleveland Museum of Art)
 Jules Bastien-Lepage, Portrait of Madame Samary (Collection of Mrs. Noah L. Butkin, Cleveland, USA)
 Jean Béraud, The Pâtisserie Gloppe (Musée Carnavalet, Paris)

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Léon Bonvin, Street in Vaugirard, water color (Private Collection, France)
Honoré Daumier, The Print Collector (Musée du Petit Palais, Paris)
Pascal Dagnan-Bouveret, Horses at a Watering Trough (Musée de Chambéry)
François Bonhommé, Factories at Le Creusot (Private Collection, France)
Gustave Brion, The Potato Harvest (Musée de Nantes)
Octave Tassaert, Portrait of M. Bruyas (Musée Fabre, Montpellier)
Edouard Frère, Preparing Dinner (Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore)
Ernest Meissonier, The Ruins of the Tuileries (Musée de Compiègne)
Eugène Boudin, Still Life with Lobster (High Art Museum, Atlanta, USA)
Antoine Vollon, Still Life with Eggs (Private Collection, USA)
Antoine Vollon, The Pont-neuf (Private Collection, USA)
Armand Leleux, Interval in the Studio (Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva, Switzerland)
Jean-François Millet, Portrait of Madame Roumy (Musée Thomas Henry, Cherbourg)
Jean-François Raffaëlli, La Famille de Jean-le-Boîteux (Mairie de La Quesnoy)
Victor Gilbert, A Corner of the Fish Hall (Musée de Lille)
Victor Gilbert, The Meat Haulers (Musée de Bordeaux)

Other major museums joining those listed above and the over 40 French provincial museums as lenders include:

The National Gallery, London
The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam
The National Gallery of Scotland
The National Gallery of Ireland
The Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Paris

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A catalog of the exhibition with 400 illustrations, 40 in color, is being prepared by Dr. Weisberg. Published by The Cleveland Museum of Art in both hard and soft bound editions, the catalog will be distributed by Indiana University Press.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.